

a protrusion extending radially inwardly from the inner surface of the compressible annular member and adapted for engagement with a groove positioned on the inner ring of the bearing.--

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--Claim 35. The bearing locking collar of claim 34, wherein the protrusion has a camming surface adapted for guiding said locking collar into a preliminary mounted position on the inner ring of the bearing.--

--Claim 36. The bearing locking collar of claim 34, wherein the protrusion is integrally formed in the annular member.--

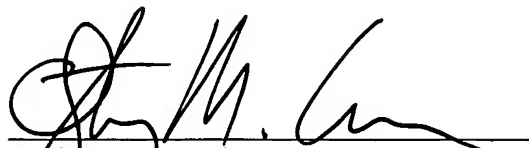
such
~~--Claim 37. The bearing locking collar of claim 1, wherein the protrusion has a wedge shape.--~~

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 34-37 are patentable over the prior art. Moreover, while claims 34-37 are directed to the embodiment disclosed in Figures 1-4, claim 34 is generic to the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-9. Therefore, additional dependent claims directed to Figures 5-9 are expected to be submitted upon allowance of generic claim 34.

Applicant further requests confirmation that the Examiner has received the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on January 11, 2002. If the Examiner has not yet received this paper and cited references, then Applicant will send in additional copies.

Date: 9-10-02

By:


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PENDING CLAIMS

Clean Versions of Pending Claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(3)

CLAIMS

Claim 34. A bearing locking collar for securing an inner ring of a bearing to a shaft comprising:

a compressible annular member having an outer surface, an inner surface, and a first end positioned opposite a second end defining a gap therebetween;

a locking component having a first portion and a second portion, the locking component extending from the first end of the member and into engagement with the second end of the member, such that when the locking component is tightened, the first end and the second end are drawn together to reduce the gap therebetween; and

a protrusion extending radially inwardly from the inner surface of the compressible annular member and adapted for engagement with a groove positioned on the inner ring of the bearing.

Claim 35. The bearing locking collar of claim 34, wherein the protrusion has a camming surface adapted for guiding said locking collar into a preliminary mounted position on the inner ring of the bearing.

Claim 36. The bearing locking collar of claim 34, wherein the protrusion is integrally formed in the annular member.

Claim 37. The bearing locking collar of claim 1, wherein the protrusion has a wedge shape.